

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-05 L-02 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-05 OC-01 CCO-00 AEC-05 H-01 IO-04

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R 221855Z OCT 74

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8324

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 4517

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

CINCUSAREUR

CINCUSAFE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 5862

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, NL

SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS DEFENSE PLAN

MISSION HAS JUST RECEIVED COPY OF LETTER DATED OCTOBER 21 FROM THE
NETHERLANDS PERMREP (HARTOGH) TO SYG LUNS AND COPIES TO GON ENGLISH
TRANSLATION OF THE NETHERLANDS DEFENSE WHITE PAPER. MISSION
IS POUCHING COPIES OF WHITE PAPER TO STATE (EUR/RPM)(REG
#1360919) AND DEFENSE ISA (REG #4611). FOLLOWING IS TEXT
OF HARTOGH LETTER.

BEGIN TEXT:

IN THE COURSE OF THE CONSULTATIONS IN THE
DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE ON THE NETHERLANDS DEFENCE
PLAN I PROMISED TO PROVIDE YOU ANY MY COLLEAGUES WITH
CONFIDENTIAL

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AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE NETHERLANDS DEFENCE
WHITE PAPER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THIS TRANSLATION
HAS, UNFORTUNATELY, REQUIRED CONSIDERABLY MORE TIME
THAN ORIGINALLY FORESEEN, BUT I NOW HAVE PLEASURE TO

PRESENT ENCLOSED A COPY THEREOF.

AS YOU PROBABLY ARE AWARE FROM PRESS REPORTS, THE WHITE PAPER HAS RECENTLY BEEN DISCUSSED IN THE NETHERLANDS PARLIAMENT. I FEEL YOU MAY FIND IT USEFUL TO BE INFORMED AS TO THE EFFECTS OF THE PARLIMINARY DISCUSSIONS ON THE NETHERLANDS DEFENCE PLAN, IN PARTICULAR AS FAR AS THESE WERE RELATED TO THE NETHERLANDS CONTRIBUTION TO NATO AND TO THE SUBJECTS ON WHICH THE DPC HAS EXPRESSED SPECIAL CONCERN.

MBFR.

ALTHOUGH THE WHITE PAPER STARTS FROM THE ASSUMPTION THAT MBFR NEGOTIATIONS WILL HAVE ACHIEVED RESULTS AT THE TIME THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEFENCE PLAN WILL START, MINISTER VREDELING HAS CLEARLY STATED IN PARLIAMENT THAT THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT WILL CONFORM WITH AGREED NATO MBFR POLICY AS REGARDS UNILATERAL FORCE REDUCTIONS. IN THAT CONNECTION HE DECLARED EXPLICITLY THAT THE PEACETIME STRENGTH OF THE ARMY WILL NOT BE REDUCED PENDING THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS, THUS MAINTAINING THE CURRENT NUMBER OF MEN IN UNIFORM. THE EXTRA FUNDS NECESSARY TO FINANCE THIS COMMITMENT WILL BE REQUESTED IN AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION BILL TO BE PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT IN THE NEXT CALENDAR YEAR. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT IT WILL TOTAL SOME 46 MILLION GULDERS. REDUCTION OF CONSCRIPT SERVICE TIME

IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING AN ADJUSTMENT HAS HAD TO BE MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION PHASES OF THE PLANNED REDUCTIONS IN CONSCRIPT SERVICE TIME. INSTEAD OF THE ORIGINALLY PROPOSED REDUCTION OF FOUR MONTHS, THE REDUCTION WILL, FOR THE TIME BEING, BE LIMITED TO TWO MONTHS. STARTING WITH THE SECOND GROUP OF CONSCRIPTS TO BE CALLED UP IN 1976 (SPRING) CONSCRIPT SERVICE TIME WILL BE REDUCED FROM 16 TO 14 MONTHS. TO BE IN LINE WITH THE ACCEPTED MBFR POLICY AS CONFIDENTIAL

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OUTLINED BEFORE, A LIMITED NUMBER OF EXTRA CONSCRIPTS WILL BE CALLED UP TO MAINTAIN PEACE-TIME STRENGTH.

FURTHER REDUCTIONS WILL ONLY BE DECIDED UPON IN THE LIGHT OF THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. IT IS THE FIRM INTENTION OF MY GOVERNMENT THAT, AS LONG AS MBFR REDUCTIONS CAN NOT BE AGREED UPON, THE ARMY WILL NOT FURTHER SHORTEN THE TIME OF SERVICE FOR ITS CONSCRIPTS.

WITHDRAWAL OF HAWK BATTERIES

IN ACCORDANCE WITH MY STATEMENT IN THE DPC MEETING OF JULY 5TH 1974 AND IN CONSONANCE WITH THE WILLINGNESS EXPRESSED BY THE NETHERLANDS PRIME MINISTER IN

HIS LETTER TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO FURTHER STUDY THE PROPOSED WITHDRAWAL OF SOME HAWK BATTERIES, THE NETHERLANDS AUTHORITIES HAVE STUDIED THE COMPROMISE PROPOSAL PRESENTED BY SACEUR (MCM-69-74 DATED 30-9-1974). THEY HAVE REACHED THE CONCLUSION THAT THEY CAN ACCEPT THE MAIN PART OF SACEURS PROPOSAL, WITHDRAWING 3 INSTEAD OF 5 HAWK BATTERIES, AND ARE PREPARED TO ADAPT THE OTIGINAL PLAN ACCORDINGLY. EXTRA FUNDS OF ABOUT 40 MILLION GULDERS FOR MEDIUM HIGH AIR DEFENCE WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE.

MORE DETAILED INFORMATION CONCERNING THE NETHERLANDS DEFENCE EFFORT WILL OF COURSE BE PROVIDED IN THE ALREADY ON GOING DEFENCE REVIEW PROCEDURE.

I AM SENDING COPIES OF THIS LETTER AND THE ENCLOSURE TO THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE AND TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE. END TEXT.
MCAULIFFE.

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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TAGS: MPOL, NATO, NL
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SECDEF INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
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